

U.S. Application Serial No.: 10/725,801
Amendment Dated March 22, 2005
In Response to Office Action Dated December 23, 2004

REMARKS

Claims 1-13 are in this application.

Claim 2 has been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer.

Claims 1 and 3-13 are currently pending in this application.

Applicants gratefully acknowledge the allowability of claims 2, 3, 5, 6 and 10 if rewritten in independent form including all the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Applicants have amended claim 1 by incorporating the contents of the canceled claim 2 into claim 1.

Claim 3 has been amended by changing the dependence of claim 3 so that claim 3 now depends from claim 1 rather than claim 2, which has been canceled.

Claims 1, 4, 7-9 and 12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Okamura.

Applicant has amended claim 1 by incorporating the contents of the canceled claim 2 into claim 1. Claim 1, as amended, is equivalent to the allowable claim 2 being rewritten in independent form including all the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. As such, claim 1, as amended, is also allowable. Claims 3-13 are

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also allowable by virtue of their dependence, either directly or indirectly, from the allowable claim 1.

Therefore, the rejection of claims 1, 4, 7-9 and 12 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Okamura should be withdrawn and claims 1, 4, 7-9 and 12 should be allowed.

Claims 1, 4, 7 and 9 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Ohshima.

Applicant has amended claim 1 by incorporating the contents of the canceled claim 2 into claim 1. Claim 1, as amended, is equivalent to the allowable claim 2 being rewritten in independent form including all the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. As such, claim 1, as amended, is also allowable. Claims 3-13 are also allowable by virtue of their dependence, either directly or indirectly, from the allowable claim 1.

Therefore, the rejection of claims 1, 4, 7 and 9 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Ohshima should be withdrawn and claims 1, 4, 7 and 9 should be allowed.

Claim 11 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Okamura.

Applicant has amended claim 1 by incorporating the contents of the canceled claim 2 into claim 1. Claim 1, as amended, is equivalent to the allowable claim 2 being rewritten in independent form including all the limitations of the base claim and any

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intervening claims. As such, claim 1, as amended, is also allowable. Claims 3-13 are also allowable by virtue of their dependence, either directly or indirectly, from the allowable claim 1.

Therefore, the rejection of claim 11 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Okamura should be withdrawn and claim 11 should be allowed.

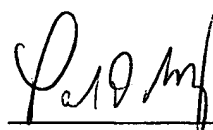
In view of the foregoing, the Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and allowance of all pending claims, namely, claims 1 and 3-13.

Accordingly, issuance of a Notice of Allowance of claims 1 and 13 is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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By:



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